

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Please replace the abstract with the following:

A magnetic head using magnetoresistive effect comprising a magnetic sensing portion formed of a magnetoresistive element. The magnetic sensing portion includes a lamination layer structure portion in which includes at least a free layer ~~made of a soft magnetic material of which the magnetization is rotated in response to an external magnetic field~~, a fixed layer made of a ferromagnetic material, an antiferromagnetic layer ~~for fixing the magnetization of the fixed layer~~ and a spacer layer interposed between the free layer and the fixed layer are laminated with each other. The lamination layer structure portion ~~further~~ includes a magnetic flux introducing layer ~~of which the tip end is opposed to a surface which is brought in contact with or opposed to a magnetic recording medium~~. The lamination layer structure portion has at its lamination layer direction opposing side surfaces formed of one flat surface or continuous one curved surface over at least the free layer, the spacer layer and the fixed layer. A hard magnetic layer having ~~high resistance or low resistance~~ for maintaining a magnetic stability of the free layer is disposed in direct contact with the opposing surfaces or through an insulating layer. A ~~sense current for the lamination layer structure portion flows through the lamination layer direction of the lamination layer structure portion. An external magnetic field is applied to the direction extended along the plane direction of the lamination layer structure portion and which is extended substantially along the opposing side surfaces.~~